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(e) whether the Chief Engineer at Mettur has made any report that the expenses are likely to exceed even the last revised estimate, and if so, to what extent?

A.—(a) & (b) The report and the orders thereon have been placed on the Editors' Table.

(c) A copy of the report was sent to the Government of India on 20th August 1928, and they were informed that this Government's remarks on the report would follow shortly.

(d) No, except as stated in reply in clause (c).

(e) No.

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"With reference to the answer to clause (c), may I know whether the final Government Order of this Government has been sent to the Government of India?"

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS:—"Yes, Sir."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"Are this Government expected to delay any of the works pending the final orders of the Government of India on the Deputation report?"

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS:—"No, Sir."

Tenders for the supply of cement to the Mettur Project.

*743 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether any tender has been accepted for the supply of cement for the Mettur Project; and if so, by whom and at what rate;

(b) the total cost to the Government according to the above tender of the quantity of cement said to be required by the Government and for which tenders were invited; and

(c) the number of other tenders, if any, that were received from others, and the respective cost to the Government according to them?

A.—(a) The Government have accepted the tender of the Shahabad Cement Company to deliver 153,000 tons of cement at Rs. 31-7-0 f.o.r. Shahabad.

(b) Including railway freight, the total cost to Government will be about Rs. 82,62,000.

(c) Two other tenders were received, but their terms cannot be disclosed as they were confidential. The rates quoted by the accepted tenderer are lower than those in either of these tenders.

Rao Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR:—"May I know at whose risk, the Government's or the Company's cement will be transported from Shahabad to Mettur?"

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS:—"The answer gives information with regard to freight. As regards risks, I must ask for notice."

Mr. ABDUL HAMID KHAN:—"May I know whether the Shahabad Cement Company is a European or Indian concern?"

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS:—"It is Indian."

Mr. ABDUL HAMID KHAN:—"Run by Indians?"

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The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" The Managing Director is an Indian."

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—" Is the risk covered by insurance ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" I believe the Government do not insure."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" With reference to answer (c), may I ask whether the Government can give the names at least of the people who sent tenders ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" In case of confidential tenders that is not allowed."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" Are the Government satisfied that the other tenderers were not binami for the Shahabad company ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" I know of no reason to suppose so."

Rao Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR :—" May I know what percentage of waste do the Government anticipate during the transportation of the cement from Shahabad to Mettur ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" I must ask for notice of that question."

Acquisition of lands for the Mettur Project.

*744-A Q.—Mr. K. KOTI REDDI : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have taken or propose to take steps to give the ryots, whose lands have been acquired by the Government for the Mettur reservoir, lands in the reserved area ;

(b) whether the Government promised to let the lands so acquired till they are submerged by the reservoir, to the original owners on an annual payment of 4 per cent of the value awarded ; and

(c) if the answer to (b) is in the negative the usual terms on which those lands are now leased out ?

A.—(a) It is not understood what the hon. Member means by the expression " in the reserved area ". The Government have recently sanctioned the disafforestation of a portion of the Vanavasi reserved forest, measuring 620 acres, in the Omalur taluk of the Salem district in order to provide lands for the ryots whose lands were acquired for the Cauvery-Mettur Project and proposals for disafforesting another reserved forest are under the consideration of the Chief Conservator of Forests.

(b) No such promise was made by or on behalf of the Government.

(c) The terms have been that the leases should ordinarily be in favour of the persons who were the actual occupants and cultivators of the lands at the time when they were acquired and that the rent charged should be determined by the Collector of Mettur on the facts of each case.

The Government have since decided, on the recommendation of the Mettur deputation that the rent should be limited to four per cent of the compensation paid by the Government.